BBN Site Perspective

Rich Transcriptions for Applications (RT-A)

The RT-A task goal is to produce a *surface representation* of a reference transcript that might include:

- **Lexical and sentential case**
- **Sentence punctuation, commas, quotes, parentheses**
- **Numeric expressions**
- **Information about the speaker and background environment**
- **Notations for hesitations and discontinuities**

Example reference transcript:

Male 1: I mean, obviously there's, uh, the possibility of – or was the possibility of war, um, but I – I somehow think that war is one of those things that – that maybe is inevitable but, um, I don't look at it as a threat in the same sense that – that I think question was meant. What about you?

Male 2: Well, I think – have you ever read the book 1984?

Pragmatics

- **Employ commercial transcription services to create training and test data for RT-A**
  - **WordWave Inc. already produces STT transcriptions that include most of the features desired for RT-A**
  - **RT-A transcription guidelines need to be created**
  - **Inter-annotator consistency will need to be measured**

- **Define RT-A *Gold Standard* in 2004 – hold constant for the remainder of the EARS program**
  - **Maximizes return on research**
  - **Eliminates waste due to incrementally evolving goals**

RT-A Collateral Benefits

RT-A supports high-level EARS Metadata objectives:

- **Readability**
  - Human studies provide important guidance for RT-A
- **STT Improvement**
  - Serves the primary objective of the EARS program
  - Encourages much closer collaboration between MDE and STT
- **Downstream Processing**
  - Provides new opportunities to integrate EARS technology with Machine Translation, Information Extraction and Summarization